



Review of Post-fire Recovery Questionnaire

Responses to questionnaire

- 3 National Forests + region BAER and Archaeology
- 3 Forestry Div. District Foresters, forestry specialist
- 3 scientists (NAU, Highlands, LANL)
- NMACSD
- SWQB
- BLM
- LANL manager
- NPS

Short term goals

- Stabilization of soils, watersheds, cultural resources
- Protect Public Safety and Property
- Reduce flood potential
- Give the public the science, techniques , funding sources they need to understand and to recover
- Reduce/prepare for impacts on all lands (cross boundary)

Longer Term Goals

- *Plan ahead* and act instead of reacting to drought and fire
- Return areas to disturbance resilient condition/return of more natural fire regimes
- Bring together all affected parties in a coordinated effort to manage before, during and after fire
- Public understands the connection between ecosystem health and ecosystem services

Longer term goals

- Allow natural recovery processes to occur without impairment from short term treatments
- Learn from large fires and understand **why** we are undertaking rehab/restoration. Are we choosing to restore areas only to protect human interests?
Would recovery happen naturally over a longer time scale that humans are not willing to accept?

Stated needs

- Funding sources to do long term management
- Effective inexpensive techniques for land owners
- Good information on past fires that required rehab/restoration vs those that didn't- why?
- Modeling tools to understand peak flow and sediment yields and when we can rehab streams
- Stream channel restoration /mitigation recommendations
- Scientific information on what can/should be done for long-term restoration?

Stated Needs

- Ability to use rehab experiences to help guide pre-fire management
- Learn from large fires and understand **why** we are undertaking rehab/restoration. Are we choosing to restore areas only to protect human interests? Would rehab happen naturally over a longer time scale that humans are not willing to accept?
- An increase in communication (interagency and inter-organizational) about methods and results

Network / Coordination ideas

- Water Managers at all scales- acequias to USACE
- Connect F S BAER Program, NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)
- Southwest Fire Science Consortium
- NM State Historic Preservation Div, office of SHPO
- Construction Programs Bureau and New Mexico Finance Authority
- Tribes from the landscape affected- (traditional ecol. knowledge)
- Emergency mgt services- FEMA to local fire depts.
- Use of state revolving funds for restoration work

Network/Coordination Ideas

- Engaged the affected public
- We need to create an information network that acknowledges the uncertain nature of our knowledge: a way to document experience, research, and theory that does not create “standard operating guidelines. Instead the network should inform practitioners, and enhance their decision-making by providing a “lessons learned” clearing house and a forum for discussions and development of ideas

Other Recommendations

BAER team concept needs to be overhauled significantly.

First, the leadership needs to be local, guiding plan development AND implementation. The BAER team should be cast in an advisory role, not a leadership role. Currently BAER teams function much like Incident Mgt. Teams

BAER treatments on NFS lands should be authorized to protect life and property off of NFS lands as well as on NFS lands

Engage landowners early and often, make them feel a part of the solution, Federal agencies will promise the world but have limited abilities

Your Turn

- What are your priority needs—science or practice—for large burned areas?
- What is your priority coordination need?
- Who should we follow up with in your agency?